

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS SHERMAN DIVISION

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:
	:
v.	: Case No.: 4:13-CR-00227-ALM-CAN
	:
MICHAEL THOMAS,	:
	: <b>UNOPPOSED MOTION TO</b>
Defendants.	: <b>SUBSTITUTE COUNSEL</b>
	:
	: Honorable Judge Amos L. Mazzant
	:
-----X	

Defendant Michael Thomas, though undersigned counsel, brings this Unopposed Motion to Substitute Counsel, requesting that the Court grant permission for the Federal Defender’s Office to withdraw and to substitute Aaron Williamson as attorney of record for Defendant in this case, and in support of his motion states as follows:

1. The Federal Defender’s Office was previously appointed to represent Defendant in this case. The docket identifies Denise S. Benson as Defendant’s appointed counsel.  
  
However, the Federal Defender’s Office has notified Defendant that Robert Arrambide is currently assigned to his case.
2. Defendant no longer desires to be represented by the Federal Defender’s Office.
3. Defendant has engaged Aaron Williamson to represent him in this case. Defendant approves of this substitution. This motion is not brought for delay, but to allow Defendant to be represented by counsel of his choice.

Defendant respectfully requests that the Court enter an order allowing the Federal Defender’s Office to withdraw from representing Defendant and to substitute Aaron Williamson

as attorney of record in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 26, 2015

/s/ Aaron Williamson  
Aaron Williamson  
New York State Bar #: 4580999  
**TOR EKELAND, P.C.**  
195 Plymouth Street, Fifth Floor  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
P: (718) 737-7264 x702  
F: (718) 504-5417  
aaron@torekeland.com

AGREED:

/s/ Michael Thomas  
Michael Thomas

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE This is to certify that a true and correct copy of the above and foregoing pleading was electronically served on all counsel of record by way of the Court's CM/ECF system on the 26th day of January, 2016.

/s/ Aaron Williamson  
Aaron Williamson  
**TOR EKELAND, P.C.**

**CERTIFICATE OF CONFERENCE**

I, Aaron Williamson, certify that as of the 26<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2016, the Federal Defender's Office has been notified, and I have conferred with the Assistant U.S. Attorney, Camelia Elisa Lopez about the filing of this motion, and she is unopposed.

/s/ Aaron Williamson  
Aaron Williamson  
**TOR EKELAND, P.C.**

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v.	: Case No.: 4:13-CR-00227-ALM-CAN
	:
MICHAEL THOMAS,	:
	: <b>ORDER GRANTING</b>
Defendants.	: <b>SUBSTITUTION OF COUNSEL</b>
	:
	: Honorable Judge Amos L. Mazzant
	:
	:
	:
-----X	

The Court, after reviewing the motion by Michael Thomas for substitution of counsel grant the following substitution of counsel for Michael Thomas:

FORMER COUNSEL:

Denise S. Benson  
Robert Arrambide  
Federal Defender's Office  
1800 Teague, Suite 204  
Sherman, TX 75090 903/8924448  
Fax: 903-892-4808  
denise\_benson@fd.org  
robert\_arrambide@fd.org

NEW COUNSEL:

Aaron Williamson  
Tor Ekeland, P.C.  
195 Plymouth Street, Fifth Floor  
Brooklyn, NY 11201  
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